

MIAMI COUNTY COUNCIL
25 NORTH BROADWAY
PERU, INDIANA 46970
December 10, 2014

Council President Ralph Duckwall called the meeting for the approving of the non-binding reviews for the units to order.

Councilman Hunt – Present
Councilwoman Harp – Present
Councilman Boyer – Absent
Councilman McAuliffe – Present
Councilman Wiles – Present
Councilwoman Mull – Present
Councilman Duckwall – Present

Council President Ralph Duckwall called the meeting to order.

Councilman Wiles led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

MINUTES

Councilwoman Harp made a motion to approve the August minutes. Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

Councilman McAuliffe made a motion to approve the September 16th Public Hearing minutes. Councilwoman Mull 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

Councilwoman Mull made a motion to approve the September 16th regular council meeting minutes. Councilman McAuliffe 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

Councilman McAuliffe made a motion to approve the September 16th meeting on non-binding reviews. Councilwoman Mull 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

Councilwoman Mull made a motion to approve the October 7th Council meeting minutes. Councilman McAuliffe 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/TRANSFERS

There was a request for an additional appropriation of \$650,000 from County General for insurance. Councilwoman Harp made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

SALARY FOR PLANNING/ZONING POSITION

The Council discussed the salary for the full time employee in the Plan Commission office. Councilman Wiles made a motion to set the salary for that position at \$28,000. Councilman McAuliffe 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0. After some discussion and clarification the vote was done again with it passing 4-2 (Hunt, Mull).

RIVERBOAT

Councilwoman Mull made a motion to make the \$400,000 appropriated from Riverboat for Health insurance a loan (if used) to be paid back from unappropriated funds by the end of the year. Councilman Hunt 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

REQUEST FOR AUDIENCE

Mary Brown, Chief Deputy Auditor and Insurance Committee Chairperson, explained that the Insurance Committee brainstormed ideas and brought recommendations. Mrs. Brown explained at the time that, the recommendations would not fix the problem but would help and showed a good faith measure on behalf of the employees. Mrs. Brown went on to state that she the comment was made to her yesterday that was not doing her job as far as the health insurance and she did not appreciate that comment because she does her job and does it well. Mrs. Brown as well as the insurance committee believed that the Commissioners and Council would take the lead and do what needed to be done. There is no plan and no direction at this time. Council President Duckwall told Mrs. Brown to stop editorializing, she is at their meeting at their discretion and to move on. Mrs. Brown stated she would say what she has to say as this is the time slot for it. She went over the estimates of cost from the insurance company since there will be fewer on the plan.

President Duckwall asked about the cost for the Novia Clinic, Life Insurance and other extras and if we would be able to change insurance in 3 months to 6 months. Mrs. Brown stated that the current insurance company was willing to work with us on that. The County is also working with R.E. Sutton on insurance issues. President Duckwall said he has spoken with R.E. Sutton. The Board of Commissioners will need to work with R.E. Sutton and come up with the best plan for the County.

President Duckwall told her, that she and the insurance committee, need to work with the Commissioners to come up with a solution. The Council appropriates the funds and everyone has to stay within what is set by the Council.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Duckwall bid farewell to Councilman Hunt and Councilman McAuliffe and thanked them for their contributions to the Miami County Council.

Councilman Hunt thanked Auditor Lilley and Chief Deputy Auditor Mary Brown and all of the Auditor's office for all their hard work and that they are blessed to have very qualified people in those positions at this time. They are certainly over worked and underpaid but under the current budget situation that can't be fixed. Councilman Hunt also thanked the Board of Commissioners for their hard work. He feels very blessed to be working on the Miami County Highway Department and also thanked the remaining Council members.

President Duckwall asked Councilman McAuliffe if he had anything he wanted to say. Councilman McAuliffe said "Goodbye". Councilman McAuliffe said he would be working part time in the Surveyor's office. He has been there 17 years and really enjoys it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Wilson, Miami County employee, told the Council that he was there mainly for information about the Health insurance. The insurance issue has been very difficult for employees because everything they hear is through the grapevine and he would appreciate more communication.

Tim Hunter, County employee (has worked for the County for about 39 years) also feels that there is a tremendous lack of communication. Mr. Hunter stated as he sat there during the meeting looking at the people who are supposed to make the decisions and saw a lot of blank looks on the faces of Council members. He feels the Insurance Committee has worked hard and the Board of Commissioners have worked hard, but without communication, nothing happens. No one can do their job effectively without communication. Mr. Hunter stated that he means no disrespect to the Commissioner or the Council, however everyone needs to be on the same page. Councilwoman Mull asked what the Council could do because all they can do is appropriate the money. Mr. Hunter stated that was his point, how can you make those kind of decisions without any information or knowledge of the subject. She suggested having a Council

member sit on the insurance committee. Councilman Wiles does sit on the committee and as of today, Councilwoman Harp will also sit on the committee.

Kelly Voss, reporter for Peru Miami County News, stated that she means no disrespect, however all she has heard during this meeting is excuses. It is December 10th and as far as she can tell, no details have been finalized such as an enrollment date for the new insurance, if it is an HSA, will there be any contribution to the employee accounts, if not, what kind of deductible will the employee be totally responsible to meet. She is waiting to hear some kind of information on when the employees will have some information on their insurance.

She is a tax payer, not just a reporter and the taxpayers have a right to know what they are doing with the tax money. She understands there is a lot to insurance but the Council will not meet again until after the first of the year and no one has any idea what is going on with the insurance. The employees had to worry months about whether they had a job or not and now they have to worry whether they insurance or not. Commissioner Francis stated that the Commissioners did drop the ball as far as the insurance but the employees are covered under the current plan but they have to stay within the appropriation the Council set so there does have to be changes made.

The Board of Commissioners are working with R.E. Sutton to come up with a policy that would benefit the employees and not cost more than the appropriated amount of money.

Councilman McAuliffe made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Hunt 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted

Jane Lilley
Miami County Auditor